

1938

Report of Committee on the Organization of Junior Auxiliary

American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants. Committee on the Organization of a Junior Auxiliary

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REPORT ON MOUNTAIN STATES CONFERENCE

By H. Claire Haines

The first regional conference of the American Institute of Accountants was held at Salt Lake City, Utah, May 31 and June 1, 1938, nine Western State Societies and the American Institute cooperating. Among nationally known men who spoke at the conference were Clem W. Collins, President of the Institute, George P. Ellis, Chairman Committee on Governmental Accounting of the Institute, and Orval W. Adams, President of the American Bankers Association. Other prominent men who came from a distance were J. William Hope, president, Connecticut Society of C. P. A's., Carman G. Blough, Chief Accountant, S. E. C., Washington, D. C., Norman L. McLaren of San Francisco, and a number of others.

Among the subjects discussed were competitive bidding, municipal accounting and finance, the revenue act of 1938, accounting requirements of the S. E. C., government fiscal policies, and other timely topics of particular interest to accountants of this section of the country such as problems of depletion. The more important papers will no doubt be printed in full in the Journal of Accountancy, and a transcript of the proceedings of the conference will be made available to members of the Institute and others who are interested.

The attendance at the conference exceeded the expectations of the arrangements committee and it was necessary to transfer the sessions to rooms with double the capacity of those originally engaged. Approximately 135 registered and there were many more who attended some of the sessions as guests of the members. 240 attended the banquet which closed the session. Keen interest was expressed in all of the discussions. The papers presented were of a very high quality and I recommend that you read them when they are printed. The conference was acclaimed as successful as the larger Institute conventions, and had an additional advantage in that the groups were smaller permitting members to become better acquainted with one another.

Much to my regret I was the only woman registered, although one other woman attended some of the sessions. She is working with her father who is a C.P.A. and is preparing for the examinations. It takes a lot of courage for one or two lone women to barge into a meeting composed entirely of men. Some of the men at this conference called me a lone wolf but I assure you I felt much more like a lone lamb. I believe, however, that we miss a great deal if we do not belong to our state societies and the Institute, and if we do not get out and mingle with the members of our profession. If we do not manifest publicly our interest in the same subjects that interest the men, they are apt to overlook the fact that we know something about those things as well as they do. At this conference as at the Institute convention in 1934 a man made a remark to me that indicated clearly that he thought I couldn't possibly be interested in or understand the discussions; - and I wondered what on earth he thought I was there for. There are still men who think we got our certificates by a slip of the wrist or other accident, and it is these few who embarrass us, or at least try to. On the other hand, a majority of our colleagues are quite willing to treat us as we wish to be treated - simply as fellow members of the same profession.